

THE  
C A S E

*Of some Thousands of the PEOPLE called QUAKERS, in Great-Britain, who Conscientiously Scruple the present AFFIRMATION.*

**W**E Desire, with *Great Humility*, to Represent to the *Legislature*, That many of Our Friends in divers Parts of this *Kingdom*, have long Laboured under *Great Difficulties*, by Reason of some Words in the Present *Affirmation*: And that it is now become more necessary for Us, than it hath been heretofore, to Apply for Relief; because the late Act for laying a Duty upon *Hides*, &c. (which requires the taking of an *Oath*, or the Present *Affirmation*) hath already been the Occasion of the *Ruin* of some, although they have Paid the *Duty*, without *Fraud*, to the *Proper Officer*; and apparently tends to the *Ruin* of many more, who Trade in those Commodities, and cannot Use the *Affirmation*.

Because in the present *Affirmation*, We are Obligated to mention the *Sacred Name* of ALMIGHTY GOD; for whose *Name* We have so *Great* and *Awful* a Reverence, that We *Conscientiously Scruple* to Use it in Cases of *Evidence*, &c. Conceiving it to be of an *Higher Nature* than the Simplicity of *Tea, Tea, and Nay, Nay*, which Our Blessed Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST Commanded His Followers to Observe instead of an *Oath*: That Simplicity We are afraid to exceed: Our LORD in this, as in other Cases, designing to Exalt the *Veracity*, and *Righteousness* of the *Gospel*, far above that of the *Law*.

We beg Leave to Say, That We Apprehend the Granting Our Request, will neither make the Government, nor any Person We Deal with, *less Secure*: For We believe Our Selves as firmly Bound in *Conscience* to speak the *Truth*, as any others esteem Themselves Oblig'd to *Swear* the *Truth*; and also, liable to as *Severe Punishment* from the *Great and Just GOD*, if We Affirm *Falsely* as they are who *Forswear Themselves*. And We willingly submit to the same *Penalties*, if ever any of Us should *Falsify* Our Words, which are now by *Law* Inflicted in Cases of *Perjury*.

And Permit Us to add, The Indulging Us herein, may be for the *Benefit* of Our *Fellow-Subjects*, who are not of Our Perswasion; since many of Our Friends, before they were *Quakers*, have been Witnesses in *Matters of Importance*, to *Deeds*, &c. And if the *Affirmation* be not made more *Easie*, those who cannot take it, will not be admitted to give their *Evidence* in any Courts of *Judicature*, which may tend to the *Damage* of many who may stand in need thereof.

Wherefore, for Our Relief; and also for the Sake of those who may want Our *Evidence*: We *Humbly Intreat*, That such an *Affirmation* may be Granted Us, wherein the *Sacred Name* of GOD may not be Used: And that the *Benefit* thereof may be made *Extensive* to Our Brethren in NORTH-BRITAIN, who are Generally under the like *Dissatisfaction*, and some of them under present *Suffering*.

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